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CASTLE WARD.

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# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For 1950.



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLE WARD.

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# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

### 1950.

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#### OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy,  
D.P.H.

Sanitary }  
Housing } Inspector - E. W. STRACHAN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.  
Meat }

Sanitary } Inspector  
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# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

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*Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen.*

I herewith beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### POPULATION.

There was an increase of 130 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 14,090 in 1949 to 14,220 in 1950.

### BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population showed a decrease, being 15.6 in 1950 and 15.8 in 1949. There were the same number of births, i.e., 223 in 1950 as in 1949. The rate for England and Wales in 1950 was 15.8.

There were three still births in 1950 and three in 1949, thus giving a still birth rate of 0.2 per 1,000 population and 0.21 respectively.

There were nine illegitimate births in 1950 compared with eight in 1949.

### GENERAL DEATH RATE.

This rate showed a slight increase from 10.0 per 1,000 of the population in 1949 to 10.47 in 1950. There were 149 deaths in 1950 compared with 142 in 1949. The death rate for England and Wales 1950 was 11.6 per 1,000 of the population.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

The figure of 13.4 per 1,000 births in 1949 and again in 1950 is the **lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded in the rural district.**

The table of infant mortality rates in the statistical section of the report shows a dramatic fall in this rate during the last 13 years. In 1938, the rate in the rural district was well above that of the country generally, now it is less than half. One can dimly visualise what this great saving of infant life has meant during the years. The present figure reflects the highest possible credit, first of all on the mothers, and secondly, on all those who have laboured so long to reduce the toll of infant life.

Of the three infant deaths in 1950, two were neo-natal deaths (i.e., occurred during the first month of life) and were due to ante-natal factors; the third death, at three months old, was due to Broncho-Pneumonia.

The skilled use of the sulphonamide drugs and the antibiotics has reduced the deaths of infants from infections such as gastro-enteritis and respiratory diseases to an amazing extent. There still remains the "hard core" of the neo-natal deaths.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths registered in 1950 as in 1949. The figure for England and Wales in 1950 was 0.86 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

### DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA & ENTERITIS (under 2 years of age).

There were no deaths from this cause in 1950 as in 1949. The rate for England and Wales was 1.9 per 1,000 live births for 1950.

### INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The three main causes of death were :—

*(1949 figures are shown in brackets).*

Heart and Circulatory diseases	...	...	59	(41)
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	24	(23)
Malignant neoplasm	...	...	16	(22)

Malignant neoplasm of the lungs and bronchi was separately classified in 1950. The classification of the third main cause of death was as follows :—

Malignant neoplasm of the stomach	...	5	(5)
"                    "          lungs & bronchi...		1	(—)
"                    "          breast	... ..	Nil	(2)
"                    "          uterus (with buccal			
cavity in 1949)	...	2	(1)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms—			
(Cancer of "all other sites" 1949)...	...	8	(14)

The number of deaths classified as due to respiratory diseases (other than Tuberculosis) was thirteen in 1950, fifteen in 1949 and five in 1948. In 1950 there were eight deaths from Pneumonia and five deaths from Bronchitis. Deaths from influenza numbered two in 1950 and one in 1949.

There was one death from "motor accidents," three from "other accidents" and three from "suicide."

### TUBERCULOSIS.

There was one death (female) registered as being due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis compared with three (male) from the same cause in 1949 and eight (six male and two female) in 1948.

No deaths from the non-pulmonary form were registered in 1950 as in 1949.

The Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate for the rural district for 1950 was .14 per 1,000 of the population compared with the rate of 0.36 for England and Wales in 1950. The rate for the rural district was 0.21 in 1949, and that for England and Wales 0.45 for the same year.

The number of primary new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified as occurring in the Rural District during 1950 was nine compared with seven in 1949; two primary new cases of the non-pulmonary form of the disease were notified in 1950 compared with three in 1949. One of the primary notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was in respect of a long term resident of an institution in the district. The inward transfers to this district in 1950 were six (all pulmonary) and in 1949—



### INFECTIOUS DISEASES—PREVALANCE AND CONTROL.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 234 compared with 225 in 1949 and 262 in 1948.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified in 1950 was 15 compared with 16 in 1949 and 20 in 1948.

Two cases were admitted to hospital on medical or social grounds. The disease was uniformly of a mild type.

The incidence of Whooping Cough decreased in 1950 to 24 cases notified from 60 in 1949, and 79 in 1948.

Measles showed an increase in 1950 to 161 cases notified compared with 130 in 1949, and 143 in 1948.

The number of cases of Pneumonia was 12 in 1950, the same number as in 1949.

No case of Diphtheria was notified in 1950 for the third year in succession.

There has been no confirmed case of Poliomyelitis notified in the Rural District during the past five years, even during the epidemic year of 1950.

### Dysentery and Food Poisoning.

Ten cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified during the year, five of them being in an institution. Two of the remaining five occurred in a school, one in the mother of one of the school children, and the other two were single cases, one occurring in March and one in April.

In all cases, investigations were made and bacteriological examination of the stool specimens of contacts undertaken. A total number of 31 stool specimens of contacts and convalescents showed 12 positive results.

Two cases of Food Poisoning were notified in August. On investigation it was found that the most likely cause was the consumption of pressed beef purchased and eaten at a friend's house in a neighbouring authority. Bacteriological examination of a sample of the beef and the patients' stools proved negative.

Following a suspected outbreak of Food Poisoning at a school, investigations were made at a Cookery Centre. Some minor improvements were suggested. The bacteriological results were negative.

In October a death occurred in Walkergate Hospital from "Acute Gastro-enteritis." As Food Poisoning was suspected, local investigations were carried out. Bacteriological examination of stool specimens of five contacts proved negative.

During 1950 several cases of Dysentery and Suspected Food Poisoning were notified. Hitherto, in the years previous to this, the Rural District was comparatively free from these gastro-intestinal infections, despite a rise in incidence throughout the country generally, but this year there were a few sporadic cases, mainly spread from other districts. Fortunately, the cases were few in number and it was possible to keep them localised.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

At 31st December, 1950, 64% of the **total** child population had been immunised at some time during their life compared with a percentage of 63 in 1949. The percentage of immunised children under

five years of age showed a slight decline to 41 in 1950 from 41.5 in 1949. The percentage of immunised children five to fifteen years increased to 77 in 1950 from 76 in 1949 and 69 in 1948.

Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area during the year 1950.			Total number of children who were given a Secondary or re-inforcing injection.
Age at date of final injection.			
Under 5.	5—15.	Total.	
142	47	189	342

There is a distinct danger that the immense reduction in the incidence and mortality of this disease, which has really been phenomenal, will make parents much less alive to the risk of the disease. **The Ministry of Health's aim is that at least 75% of babies should be immunised before the end of the first year of life.** At present this is not being attained. While the response of parents to immunisation is generally very good indeed, a few are inclined to put it off until the child nears or reaches school age, forgetting the risk to which the child is being exposed during the early years.

Figures given by the Ministry of Health in March, 1951, in regard to the incidence and deaths from Diphtheria in the country generally during the last ten years are outstanding, and from a point of interest are quoted below :—

			CASES.	
			DEATHS. (Original uncorrected)	(corrected)
1940...	...	...	2,480	46,281 —
1944	...	...	934	29,949 23,152
1949 (provisional)			85	4,971 1,897

One can imagine only a little of the death and suffering which has been avoided by ten years of patient progress and co-operation in immunisation by all concerned, apart from the substantial saving in hospital costs and personnel. It is hoped that by continued effort this achievement will be sustained and even improved.

#### WHOOPING COUGH PROPHYLAXIS.

The number of children who completed a course of inoculation with pertussis vaccines (including vaccines combined with diphtheria prophylactic) during the year ending 31st December, 1950, was as follows :—

Age at date of final injection.

Under 1 year.	1-4 years.	Total.
22	28	50
(1)	(28)	(29)

*1949 figures in brackets.*

Injections are given at the parent's request by the general practitioners of the district and at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

During 1950, twenty-seven primary vaccinations and eleven re-vaccinations were done by general practitioners, compared with nineteen primary vaccinations and no re-vaccinations in 1949, and twenty primary vaccinations and no re-vaccinations in 1948.

## HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

### AMBULANCE.

This service is under the control of the County Council. The north-eastern area of the district, comprising the villages of Bolam, Bolam Vicarage, Brenkley, Gallowhill, Horton Grange, Riplington, Shilvington, Stannington, Twizell and Whalton are served by the ambulances of Morpeth and Ashington Stations.

A utilicon ambulance operates from Ponteland (Thompstone's Garage), and from here covers the central and south-eastern parts of the district.

Ambulances of the Newburn and Gosforth Stations cover the south-western part of the district.

In March, 1950, the Dinnington ambulance was transferred to the Gosforth Station.

### HOME HELP.

This service is controlled by the County Council through the South Area Health administration. During 1950, a total of 425 cases were served in the South Area for varying periods, 68 of which were resident in the Rural District. The cases served comprised thirty-three of illness, nine of aged and infirm people, thirteen of confinement, two post-natal cases, one blind person, six following operation and just discharged from hospital, one of mental illness and three cases of accident.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This service is administered by the County Council. There are seven Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the district, one at each of the following places :—

Dinnington Colliery, Dinnington Village, Ponteland, Stamfordham, Stannington Village, Stannington Settlement and Brunton Park.

### DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

This service also is administered by the County Council. There are five Nurse-Midwives practising in the district :—

- (1) Nurse Simpson, 17, Edwin Street, Dinnington Colliery.
- (2) „ Cockburn, The Bungalow, Dinnington Village.
- (3) „ Brown, 3, The Green, Ponteland.
- (4) „ Wright, 3, The Oval, Stamfordham.
- (5) „ Larney, Blagdon, Stannington.



## HOSPITALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

- (1) Birney Hill Convalescent Hospital.
- (2) Ponteland Hospital.
- (3) St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington.
- (4) Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital, Stannington.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMES.

- (1) Cottage Homes, Ponteland (Newcastle Corporation).
- (2) Louisville (Children's Home) Ponteland (Northumberland County Council).
- (3) Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington. (Northumberland County Council).
- (4) Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington (for aged people) (Northumberland County Council).

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead—Section 50.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention—Section 47.

No action was necessary under either of these sections.

## HOUSING.

At the end of the year, there were 460 applicants for Council houses.

During the year, 64 new houses were built by this Council, bringing the total number of houses owned by the Council to 612. In the same period 20 houses were built by other persons.

The Rural Housing Survey, completed end of December, 1950, revealed that approximately 60% of all the houses in the district could be considered to be up to standard, *i.e.*, structurally sound, hot and cold water supply, bath, water closet, and satisfactory drainage. Of the remaining 40%, approximately 23% of the houses lacked the above facilities, and required in many cases structural alteration or improvement to achieve them. The remaining two percentages, namely, 7.74% and 10.19% referred to houses placed in categories 4 and 5 respectively, houses which in the first instance were worthy of reconditioning, and in the latter were totally incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense. The position is summarised as follows :—

Population.	No. of houses.	CATEGORIES.				
		1	2	3	4	5
14,897	4,159	2,041	406	966	322	424
„	„	49.07%	9.76%	23.22%	7.74%	10.19%
					Cat. 4	Cat. 5
Total number of category 4 and 5 houses in district					322	424
Houses against which action had been taken to date					24 7.45%	274 64.62%
Houses against which action still had to be taken					298 92.54%	150 35.37%

### **Overcrowding.**

The survey revealed that of the 4,159 houses, 98 were found overcrowded in accordance with the Housing Act, 1936, resulting in a percentage of 2.35%. It is considered that the position, whilst unsatisfactory, could have been much worse.

The Council's policy of raising the standard of housing in the district by the reconditioning of sub-standard houses capable of repair at a reasonable cost, continued to make good progress. It will be noted that during the year 206 conversions from privies to the water carriage system were accomplished. When a piped water supply becomes more generally available as the water scheme progresses, it is hoped that this undesirable form of sanitation will become a thing of the past.

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

A comprehensive scheme for supplying the entire district with a piped supply of water was mentioned in previous annual reports. On 25th October, 1949, at a Public Inquiry held at Newcastle, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company made application to the Ministry of Health for an order for the extension of their water mains throughout the Rural District. The Ministry of Health approved the scheme in principle, and the application of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company was granted when the "Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950," came into operation on 31st July, 1950.

Included in the Order is the provision of two service reservoirs, one in the Parish of Harlow Hill and the other in the Parish of Ryal. As the work of implementing the scheme will be phased, it is expected that the first phase will consist of the extension of existing water mains.

The position regarding water supplies in general are set out in detail in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.**

The details under this section have been compiled by Mr. Strachan, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council's Health Committee for the great interest they have shown in the work of my department, and for their unfailing support during the year, and to the Senior Sanitary Officer, the additional Sanitary Officers, and to the Clerk of the Health Department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

## PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT :

Area (in acres) ... ..	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population...	14,220
No. of inhabited houses, according to rate books...	3,964
Sum represented by penny rate ... ..	£421
Rateable Value ... ..	£109,227

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS :

	Males	Females	Total
Live births (leg.) ... ..	105	109	214
Live births (illeg.) ... ..	3	6	9
Still births ... ..	1	2	3
Deaths ... ..	81	68	149
Birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..	...	...	15.6
Still births ,, ... ..	...	...	.2
Death rate , ,, ... ..	...	...	10.47

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	13.4
Leg. infants per 1,000 leg. live births ... ..	13.4
Illeg. infants ... ..	Nil.

## DEATHS :

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	16
Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	Nil

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CASTLE WARD AREA, 1950.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
	ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	81	68	149
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	1	1
2.	„ „ other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningo-coccal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases...				1	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	1	5
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus...				1	—	1
12.	„ „ breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	7	1	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	9	15	24
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	10	10	20
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	5	3	8
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	19	12	31
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	3	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	—	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	4	8
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	—	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system...				—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	2	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformation	...	...	...	1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases...				3	7	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	1	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	—	3
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	1	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—



**BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.**

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.	
	CASTLE WARD.	ENGLAND & WALES.		CASTLE WARD.	ENGLAND & WALES.
1931	12.7	16.4	...	10.2	12.3
1932	12.3	15.9	...	9.0	12.0
1933	11.9	15.0	...	9.5	12.3
1934	12.1	15.4	...	10.7	11.8
1935	12.9	15.3	...	9.4	12.1
1936	12.9	15.4	...	10.7	12.1
1937	13.7	15.5	...	9.9	12.4
1938	15.2	15.7	...	9.3	11.6
1939	14.2	15.5	...	8.8	12.1
1940	13.1	15.1	...	8.3	14.3
1941	13.0	15.7	...	9.0	11.6
1942	15.9	16.3	...	10.1	11.6
1943	15.7	17.0	...	9.3	12.1
1944	17.5	18.1	...	12.6	11.6
1945	14.9	16.5	...	11.6	11.4
1946	17.2	19.6	...	10.7	11.5
1947	14.9	21.0	...	11.5	12.0
1948	15.4	18.3	...	10.9	10.8
1949	16.0	16.7	...	10.0	11.7
1950	15.8	15.8	...	10.47	11.6

**INFANT MORTALITY RATES.**

		CASTLE WARD.		ENGLAND & WALES.
1938	...	74.6	...	53
1939	...	33.7	...	50
1940	...	33.7	...	55
1941	...	40.6	...	59
1942	...	30.0	...	49
1943	...	28.5	...	49
1944	...	41.8	...	46
1945	...	50.9	...	46
1946	...	43.0	...	43
1947	...	41.0	...	41
1948	...	26.3	...	34
1949	...	13.4	...	32
1950	...	13.4	...	29.8

**INFANT MORTALITY 1950.**

Congenital malformation	...	...	...	2 weeks.
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	3 months.
Prematurity (24 week foetus)	...	...	...	1 hour.

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The table on page 13 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Infectious Disease Hospital at Walkergate. This hospital is now controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

## PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological Reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

				Positive	Negative
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	2
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	...	6	2
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11	82
Urine for pus cells and culture	...	...	...	1	6
Stool specimens for Food Poisoning	...	...	...	—	29
„ „ Dysentery	...	...	...	12	29
„ „ other purposes	...	...	...	—	8
				—	—
				30	158
				—	—
			TOTAL	...	188

INFECTIOUS DISEASE YEARLY RETURN, 1950.

NUMBER OF CASES—CIVILIANS.

DISEASE	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 & over		Total		Hosp-ital	Deaths
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	3	—	1	5	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	7	8	2	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	3	2	4	2	1	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	10	—	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Measles ...	2	—	21	19	17	16	39	37	1	6	1	—	1	1	82	79	—	Nil
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Polio Encephalitis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

DISEASE	0—		5—		15—		45—		65 & over		Total		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Acute Pneumonia ...	2	—	1	—	1	4	2	1	—	1	6	6	4	+
Dysentery ...	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	3	Nil	Nil
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Acute Enc. Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	Nil	Nil

### FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1950.

#### OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :

Total outbreaks ... Nil.	Total cases ... Nil.
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#### OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

(a)	Chemical Poisons	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Salmonella Organisms	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	Staphylococci (including toxin)	...	...	...	...	Nil
(d)	Cl. botulinum	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e)	Other bacteria	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total outbreaks ... Nil.	Total cases ... Nil
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#### SINGLE CASES :

AGENT IDENTIFIED.	UNKNOWN CAUSE.	TOTAL.
Nil.	2	2

### DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

	NOTIFICATIONS.				DEATHS.	
1930	...	...	29	...	...	Nil
1931	...	...	13	...	...	Nil
1932	...	...	7	...	...	Nil
1933	...	...	31	...	...	1
1934	...	...	7	...	...	Nil
1935	...	...	13	...	...	Nil
1936	...	...	23	...	...	Nil
1937	...	...	12	...	...	1
1938	...	...	36	...	...	Nil
1939	...	...	34	...	...	1
1940	...	...	18	...	...	Nil
1941	...	...	19	...	...	Nil
1942	...	...	23	...	...	4
1943	...	...	6	...	...	Nil
1944	...	...	9	...	...	1
1945	...	...	8	...	...	Nil
1946	...	...	4	...	...	Nil
1947	...	...	2	...	...	Nil
1948	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1949	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1950	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil



TUBERCULOSIS—AGE GROUPS.

Age Periods				New cases notified as occurring in the Rural District during 1950.			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	—	—	—	—	
1—5	...	...	—	—	—	—	
5—15	...	...	—	—	—	—	
15—25	...	...	1	4	1	—	
25—35	...	...	1	2	—	—	
35—45	...	...	—	1	—	—	
45—55	...	...	—	—	—	—	
55—65	...	...	—	—	1	—	
65 and over	...	...	—	—	—	—	
Age unknown	...	...	—	—	—	—	
				2	7	2	—
				9		2	
				11			

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.  
STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Quarter ended	No. of cases on Register at commencement of Quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time		No. of cases removed from Register		No. of cases remaining	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.
March 31st, 1950—								
Males ...	30	7	(incl. 2 inward transfers) 2	2	2	—	31	8
Females ...	30	12	3	—	1	—	32	12
June 30th, 1950—								
Males ...	31	8	—	—	1	—	30	8
Females ...	32	12	1 (inward transfer)	—	1	—	32	12
September 30th, 1950—								
Males ...	30	8	(incl. 2 inward transfers) 3	—	1	—	32	8
Females ...	32	12	5	—	1	—	36	12
December 31st, 1950—								
Males ...	32	8	—	—	—	—	32	8
Females ...	36	12	1 (inward transfer)	—	1	—	36	12

# Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector, 1950.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company supply water under pressure to the eastern part of the district. It is considered that approximately two-thirds of the population are served from this source. The remainder, which are spread over the western, north-western and south-western part of the district, rely on wells and springs, and, in a few cases, boreholes.

### EXISTING WATER SUPPLIES— COUNCIL SUPPLIES.

The Council supply water to the communities of Heddon-on-the-Wall, Kirkheaton, Stamfordham and Whalton; the source of the supplies and method of distribution, together with the report of the Public Analyst, is as follows :—

#### 1. Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Population : 583 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 192 (of which 4 are farms).

Supplied by spring situated some 600 yards north-east of the village, the spring overflowing into a collecting chamber raised by engine pump to a 20,000 gall. tank elevated on stone piers in the village, the water gravitating through cast iron piping from this point.

“ This sample of water is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity. It is colourless and clear, and contains no deposit for microscopical examination. I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use.”

#### 2. Kirkheaton.

Population : 89 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 28 (of which 6 are farms).

Supplies Manor House and 15 houses (of which 2 are farms).

Supplied by spring situated some 1,400 yards south-west of the village, the water overflowing into a collecting chamber and gravitating from here to a tank fixed on brick piers, the water gravitating from the tank in cast iron piping to supply the village.

A second spring is available to augment the supply, but it is at too low an elevation to feed into the tank by gravitation, and in consequence a temporary pump is brought to the site as and when required.

“ This sample of water is of very satisfactory organic purity, and this opinion is borne out by the excellent bacterial results obtained. The water is colourless and clear, and contains no visible deposit. I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use, but since its pH value is very low and there is but little temporary hardness, it will almost certainly be corrosive to metals and plumbo-solvent.”

### 3. Stamfordham.

Population : 357 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 105 (of which 9 are farms).

Supplies 80 houses, including Land Army Hostel, Women's Institute, Parish Hall, Garage and School (no farms).

Supplied by borehole situated approximately 400 yards north of the village, water being raised by engine pump to a storage tank elevated on brick piers, the water gravitating through cast iron piping from this point to the village.

" This sample of water is of very satisfactory organic purity as shown by the chemical results, and it is also of excellent bacterial purity. Its physical and microscopical characteristics are good, and I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use."

### 4. Whalton.

Population : 244 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 80 (of which 16 are farms).

Supplies 60 houses, including Land Army Hostel, Village Club and 4 farms.

Supplied by borehole situated 440 yards south of the village, the water overflowing into a collecting chamber, and being raised by electric pump to an underground brick built 17,000 gall. storage tank on elevated ground north-east of the village, near the Glebe Farm, at a distance of approximately half-a-mile from point of pumping. Gravitates from storage tank through cast iron mains to the village.

" This sample of water is of very satisfactory bacterial purity, so that the somewhat high free ammonia content is not indicative of sewage pollution, and the remainder of the chemical results are satisfactory. The water is colourless and clear, and there is no deposit for microscopical examination. I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use."

## PRIVATELY OWNED SUPPLIES.

The owners of the estates supply the communities of Belsay, Berwick Hill, Capheaton, Dalton, Matfen, Ryal and Stannington. The details of these supplies are as follows :—

### 1. Belsay.

Population : 166 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 55 (of which 10 are farms).

Supplies 50 houses (of which 7 are farms and 1 school).

Two boreholes supply the village, one borehole is situated at Bounder House and the other at Burnside. The water is raised by engine pump to collecting tanks, and gravitates from this point to supply the village.

### 2. Berwick Hill.

Population : 45 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 12 (of which 4 are farms).

Supplies 7 houses (of which 3 are farms).



One spring supplies the village, and is situated three-quarters of a mile south-east of the village. The water is raised from a collecting tank by either a windmill pump or diesel engine through 2 inch asbestos pipes to a storage tank of approximately 7,000 gallons which is situated in the centre of the village of Berwick Hill. From this point the water gravitates through galvanised iron pipes to supply houses, farms and fields.

### 3. Capheaton.

Population : 97 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 37 (of which 7 are farms).

Supplies 30 houses (of which 5 are farms).

One spring supplies the village of Capheaton and farm houses in the vicinity. The spring is situated half-a-mile to the west of the village, the water being raised by engine pump to an underground storage tank situated on high ground, and gravitating from this point through cast iron pipes to supply the village.

### 4. Dalton.

Population : 61 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 16 (of which 7 are farms).

Supplies 13 houses (of which 3 are farms).

One spring supplies the village, situated quarter-of-a-mile south of the village. The water is raised by a water wheel driven by stream, to a storage tank at Dalton House, gravitating from this point through wrought iron piping supplying the village.

### 5. Matfen.

Population : 194 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 62 (of which 6 are farms).

Supplies 33 houses including Matfen Hall and 1 farm.

One well supplies the village of Matfen. The well is situated some 300 yards west of the village, water being raised by windmill and engine pump to an overhead storage tank, and gravitating from this point to supply the village.

### 6. Ryal.

Population : 39 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 13 (of which 5 are farms).

Supplies 8 houses (of which 1 is a farm).

One spring supplies the village of Ryal, being situated some 600 yards south-west of South Farm. The water is raised by hydraulic ram to storage tank at north side of village, and gravitates through wrought iron piping from this point to supply the village.

### 7. Stannington.

Population : 2,611 (approximately).

Total No. of Houses in Parish : 246 (of which 60 are farms).

Supplies : Stannington Vale Farm and  
8 Estate Houses at Stannington Vale.  
Town Farm House.  
Swan Farm House.  
Vicarage.  
School.  
28 houses in village.

One spring supplies the village of Stannington, being situated at Duddo Hill, north-west of the village. The water is raised by pump to a small tank from which it gravitates to the village.

SUMMARY.

					Tap or Pump inside	Tap, Pump or Well outside.	Popu- lation.
NO. OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM :							
Wells	...	...	...	312	125	187	1154
Springs	...	...	...	378	221	157	1898
Boreholes	...	...	...	319	268	51	1180
Aqueduct	...	...	...	2	1	1	7
Newcastle & Gateshead Mains...				2782	2487	295	8942
Tynemouth Mains	...	...		53	52	1	196
COUNCIL SUPPLIES :							
Hedden—							
No. of Houses supplied from :							
Spring	...	...	...	143	80	63	529
Heugh and Hawkwell—							
No. of Houses supplied from :							
Borehole	...	...	...	95	64	31	351
Kirkheaton—							
No. of Houses supplied from :							
Spring	...	...	...	18	6	12	66
Whalton—							
No. of Houses supplied from :							
Borehole	...	...	...	50	43	7	185
					3347	805	
					4152	4152	14508

The following table shows the position in relation to the samples of water taken for Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination during the year :—

DISTRICT.	SOURCE.	DATE.	CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.	BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.
Dalton ...	Spring ...	7/6/50 ...	—	Satisfactory.
do. ...	Stream ...	9/6/50 ...	—	Unsatisfactory. B. Coli, 90 per 100 ml.
(Heugh) (Chapel Farm) ...	Spring ...	29/6/50 ...	Satisfactory	Satisfactory.
(Heugh) (Stamfordham)	Council Supply ...	do. ...	do.	do.
Heddon ...	do. ...	3.7/50 ...	do.	do.
Whalton	do.	do. ...	do.	do.
Kirkheaton	do.	4.7/50 ...	do.	do.
Hawkwell	do.	5.7/50 ...	do.	do.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In the Annual Report of 1949, it was reported that two Public Inquiries were held by the Ministry of Health into proposed schemes of drainage and sewerage works for the communities of Heddon-on-the-Wall and Stamfordham (including Hawkwell) at an estimated cost of £50,000 and £27,872 respectively. The latter scheme has been approved by the Ministry in principle. A similar Public Inquiry was held at Stannington, the cost of the project being estimated at approximately £7,000. Three other Schemes for works at Belsay, Matfen and Ogle are under consideration.

The whole of these sewerage schemes, together with the supply of water mains throughout the district, fit into the general plan for the Development of the nine Centres, *i.e.* :—

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Dinnington Colliery. | 2. Heddon-on-the-Wall. |
| Dinnington Village.     |                        |
| Hazelrigg.              |                        |
| 3. Ponteland.           | 4. Stamfordham.        |
| 5. Whalton.             | 6. Belsay.             |
| 7. Matfen.              | 8. Capheaton.          |
| 9. Woolsington.         |                        |

The Council's 13 sewage works and sewerage systems are under the control and supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. G. E. Dimmack.

The following are the details of the works :—

### **Burns Close.**

The disposal works at Burns Close take the sewage from the village of Burns Close. They consist of hydrolytic tanks, percolating filter with revolving distributors and humus tank. As reported last year, these works are still redundant due to subsidence. In March, 1950, compensation for the damage to the works was paid to the Council by the National Coal Board. A petition was also received from 97 residents at Burns Close asking for the conversion of the privies to the water carriage system. Under the present circumstances this cannot be done, although the work of conversion is long overdue. The proposed extension to the Ouseburn Sewer, which would take the sewerage from Burns Close, is under consideration. It is most necessary that the present unsatisfactory position for the disposal of liquid waste from the Burns Close houses be alleviated at the earliest possible moment.

### **Heddon-on-the-Wall.**

There are two small works, one at the north and one at the south side of the village. They comprise of tanks, and percolating filters with revolving distributors. The effluents deliver into ditches. The works at both north and south are overloaded, and are in a poor condition. It was for this reason, as well as the future development of Heddon, that a new system of sewers and sewage disposal works was drawn up.

### **Stannington.**

The sewage from the village is treated by tanks and percolating filter, distributed by means of Farrer's tipping and trough apparatus. The effluent enters a tributary of the Blyth.



**Wallridge.**

The sewage from the houses built by the Kirkheaton Coal Company at Wallridge is treated by tank and percolating filter with revolving distributors. The effluent enters a small stream.

**Darras Hall Estate.**

The sewage is treated in detritus tanks, settling tanks and two 40-foot filter beds with revolving distributors. The effluent enters the River Pont.

**Kirkheaton.**

The whole of the sewage from this village is treated by tanks and percolating filters with revolving distributors.

**Ponteland.**

The sewerage from the North Road gravitates to sewage disposal works consisting of settling tanks, 30-foot percolating filter and humus tanks. The storm water is treated by land irrigation. The sewage from the remainder of the village gravitates to a pumping station, from which it is pumped through an 8 inch rising main to the sewage disposal works, consisting of balancing tanks, settling tanks, two 30-foot filter beds and humus tanks. The storm water is treated by land irrigation. The effluent enters the River Pont.

**Ridge Estate, Ponteland.**

These works consist of detritus tank, settling tanks and percolating filter with revolving distributor. The plant is now receiving the sewage from a further 27 dwellings which have been connected to the new sewer extension of last year.

**Stamfordham.**

The village is sewered with 6 inch sewers converging to the sewage disposal works, which consist of detritus and settling tanks, with a 30-foot percolating filter and humus tank. The effluent enters the River Pont.

**Whalton.**

The village has 6 inch sewers throughout. The works consist of detritus tanks, settling tanks and 30-foot percolating filter with humus tank. The effluent enters the How Burn.

**Woolsington.**

The sewage works comprise of a detritus settling and humus tank, together with percolating filters and revolving distributors. The effluent delivers into the Ouseburn.

**Capheaton.**

The whole of the village has been sewered and a small disposal works provided consisting of settling tank and filter bed. The distribution is by Farrer's tipper and trough system.

**Brunton Park Estate.**

The sewage from this estate of some 223 dwellings, gravitates to the Gosforth Council's pumping station at the Three Mile Bridge, with whom an agreement exists for the treatment and disposal of the sewage.

The sewage from the large Hospitals and Institutions in the district is treated as follows :—

1. ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, STANNINGTON.  
Tanks and filter beds with revolving distributors.
2. MONA TAYLOR HOSPITAL AND THOMAS TAYLOR HOMES, STANNINGTON.  
Detritus tanks, settling tanks and percolating filters with revolving distributors.
3. NETHERTON TRAINING SCHOOL, STANNINGTON.  
Settling tanks, percolating filter and humus tanks.
4. CHILDREN'S SANATORIUM AND FARM COLONY, STANNINGTON.  
Tanks, filters and revolving distributors.
5. COTTAGE HOMES, PONTELAND.  
Tanks and filters with trough distribution.

During the year ten entirely new private systems of drainage complete with septic tank and filter bed were laid down, together with 193 alterations or extensions. There were also 142 inspection chambers constructed and 254 branch drains. All the works of renewal, extension or alteration were to existing houses and premises only, and did not include new housing, the drainage of which is examined by the Engineer and Surveyor's department.

#### Closet Accommodation.

There have been 206 conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the following places :—

1, Berkley Terrace, Whalton	...	...	...	1
Low Luddick, Black Callerton	...	...	...	3
Walter Street, Dinnington Colliery	}	...	...	51
George Street, „ „				
Edwin Street, „ „				
Co-operative Terrace, Dinnington Colliery	...	...	...	11
1 and 2, Gray Street, „ „	...	...	...	2
Pearson's Store „ „	...	...	...	1
Charles Street, Hazlerigg	}	...	...	136
Lieven Street, „ „				
Enid Street, „ „				
Lola Street, „ „				
Windt Street, „ „				
Coach Lane, „ „	}	...	...	1
3, Clayton Tee., Heddon-on-the-Wall				
				<hr/> 206

#### Rivers and Streams.

No action was necessary under this heading.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Prior to 1950, 31 of the 66 Parishes in the district were in receipt of a cleansing service. On 1st April, 1950, the last phase of the plan for refuse collection throughout the area was put into operation.

The system of collection is based on the whole area of approximately 130 square miles, being divided into five sectors. One refuse collecting vehicle complete with Chageman, Driver and Loader or Loaders is allocated

to each sector. The Chargeman is responsible for his sector, and takes instruction direct from the Office ; there is no General Foreman.

In sectors 1 and 2 which cover the more densely populated area, a weekly collection is maintained. The remaining sectors which are situated to the west, south and north-west are serviced as a rule every two weeks, although the refuse from hospitals, institutions and some villages is collected weekly.

The system seems to be working satisfactorily, and practically no complaints have been received.

#### **COSTING FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1950.**

Estimated quantity of refuse removed	...	...	...	8,758 tons.
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	...	2.12 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum	...	...	...	6.8 cub. yds.
Average per 1,000 pop. per day (365 days)	...	...	...	33.7 cwts.
Total cost of collection (Refuse and Salvage)	...	...	...	£6,877
Payment to men when sick	...	...	...	£73
				<hr/>
Total Cleansing costs				£6,950
Less income from salvage	...	...	...	£422
"    "    "    trade refuse	...	...	...	£45
				<hr/>
Nett Cleansing Cost				467
				£6,483
				<hr/>
Cost per house	...	...	...	£1 11s. 4.2d.
Cost per head population...	...	...	...	9s. 1.3d.
Cost on rates in the £	...	...	...	1s. 3.3d.

#### **Vehicles.**

The following are the types and capacities of the refuse collecting vehicles operating in the district :—

Thornycroft,	1943	9 cub. yds. (cap.)	side loader.
Thornycroft,	1948	12	" " " "
Bantam Karrier,	1949	7	" " " "
Bantam Karrier,	1949	7	" " " "
Bantam Karrier,	1950	7	" " " "

The vehicles are garaged at Ponteland and Stamfordham. The four vehicles operating from Ponteland, covering sectors 1, 2, 4 and 5, are accommodated in a Nissen Hut 60 x 20 feet. This hut is proving to be too small, and it is hoped that extra accommodation, which is under consideration, will be available in the near future. The remaining vehicle which covers sector 3 is housed at Stamfordham in a wooden garage.

#### **Refuse Disposal.**

Is generally speaking a costly undertaking in built up areas, but this district at present has the advantage of a few disused quarries which the owners have kindly allowed to be used for the disposal of refuse. The places of disposal are as follows :—

1. Stobhill (Quarry).
2. Heddon-on-the-Wall (Quarry).
3. Standing Stone, Matfen.
4. Belsay.
5. Belsay West (Quarry).
6. Whorlton.
7. Ponteland (south of Brickyard) (Quarry).



8. Shotton (Quarry).
9. Whalton.
10. Brunton (Quarry).

In addition to the above, pitfalls at Dinnington Village have been utilised. All these points are steadily being filled, but as yet, with the exception of Brunton Quarry, do not present any immediate problem.

Brunton Quarry which was used jointly by this Council and the Gosforth Urban District Council has now been filled and levelled. By arrangement with the occupier of an area of land west of the quarry, a seven feet deep hollow is being filled by this Council only. This takes all the refuse from North Gosforth, Brunton Park Estate and Hazlerigg. The estimated "life" of the tip is two years. It is unfortunate that the Gosforth Urban District Council were permitted to use Brunton Quarry, as otherwise it would have served this Council for a considerable number of years.

### Salvage.

The quantity of salvage material collected during 1950 shows a decrease of 4 tons 16 cwts. compared with the total amount collected in 1949. The collection of salvage is carried out at the same time as the collection of refuse. In July, 1950, an agreement was made with the Thames Board Mills for the purchase of all waste paper and cardboard for the five years ending 30th June, 1955. The prices received are higher than those obtained locally. I wish to thank all those methodical residents who continue to save their salvage paper, and trust that the increased monetary return for the sale of this waste will encourage others to do likewise.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.		£	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard ...	44	18	1	—	...	376	18	5½
Rags and Sacking ...	1	1	—	—	...	22	6	3
Scrap Metal ...	8	13	1	—	...	22	10	4½
Total ...	54	12	2	—	...	421	15	1

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year under review, the Survey of Houses under the "Rural Housing Survey" was completed. The figures of the final report are shown on page 7. It will be seen that reasonably good progress has been made with the detail inspection followed by action under the Housing Act, 1936.

Although the £100 free limit allowed by the Ministry of Works for the carrying out of repairs to a house still obtains, full advantage of this is not taken. Owners of property complain of the low rents in relation to the increased cost of works of repair, with the result that a greater number of complaints of small defects are now being received from occupiers than at any other time.

Building Licences numbering forty-seven were issued during 1950, and were allocated to :—

- (a) Increased Housing Accommodation—£10,856.
- (b) Improved Housing—£3,936 2s. 4d.
- (c) Agricultural Housing—£1,316.
- (d) Housing Maintenance—£808 12s. 6d.
- (e) Garages—£637.
- (f) Decoration—£300.



The following table shows a summary of sanitary defects :—

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done.	Verbal or written notice.	Complied with
To clear choked drain or W.C. ...	21	21
To provide ashbins ...	43	43
To repair sinks or wastepipes ...	19	19
Defective or leaking roofs, damp walls, etc. ...	65	63
Defective fireplaces ...	23	23
„ outbuildings ...	57	41
„ manhole covers ...	2	2
„ water closets ...	132	125
„ sash cords ...	39	39
„ wallplaster ...	33	29
Offensive accumulations ...	2	2
Defective ceilings ...	17	17
„ food stores ...	14	14
„ airgates ...	—	—

#### SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

		By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice...	TOTAL
Sanitary Conveniences.	Privies & Privy ashpits abolished...	206	—	206
	„ „ „ repaired ...	17	—	17
	Pail-Closets abolished ...	—	—	—
	Water Closets provided ...	206	—	206
	Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S.47 ...	205	—	205
	Sanitary bins provided ...	94	—	94
	„ renewed ...	94	—	94
Drainage	New Drains constructed ...	{ 10 new systems }	—	10
	Drains repaired or reconstructed ...	{ 207 extns. }	—	207
	Additional gullies provided ...	28	—	28
	Old Gullies replaced ...	15	—	15
	Scullery sinks provided ...	23	—	23
	do. waste-pipes repaired ...	9	—	9
	„ „ trapped ...	1	—	1
Water Supply	Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	15	—	15
	Sources closed or discontinued Nil.	No. of houses	Nil.	
	Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. re disconnection of houses in stage of demolition not included.			
	New service provided :—			
	(a) By Local Authority ... Nil.	No. of houses ...	Nil	
	(b) By Private Owner ... 1	No. of houses ...	1	
	Number of dwelling houses supplied by (a) internal tap ...		3,343	
	or (b) standpipe ...		807	

**FACTORIES ACT.**

There are 65 factories in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review.

**INSPECTIONS.**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	15	30	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	50	100	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	65	130	—	—

## DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases Pro- secutions instituted.
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	3	3	—	—	—

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Up to 31st March, 1950, the Council operated the delegated powers from the County Council under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 and the Infestation Order, 1943. After that date, all local authorities were charged with the responsibility of carrying out the requirements of the new act.

Regular treatment for rodent infestation continued to be carried out at the Council's 13 sewage works, with satisfactory results.

Staff problems tended to impede the work of attending to complaints of infestations, with the result that it was not found possible to treat the sewerage systems.

To satisfactorily carry out the duties under the 1949 Act, especially having regard to the agricultural commitments of the district, consideration is being given for the employment of a full time Rodent Operator, 50 per cent. of whose salary and travelling expenses can rank for grant from the Ministry.

### CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the district. Five modern caravans were licensed for a period of twelve months.

### COLLIERY SPOILBANKS.

Coal winning in the eastern part of the district is responsible for the employment of approximately 13 per cent. of the total population. During the year two spoilbanks, one each at Dinnington Colliery and Hazelrigg, were creating a nuisance, by burning. The National Coal Board officials co-operated with the department, and it was possible before the end of the year to say that the position was greatly improved. A new spoilbank is to be commenced at Dinnington Colliery, and it is hoped that no further cause for complaint will arise there.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### (a) Milk Supply.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, the local authority is now only responsible for hygienic handling of milk by retailers, of whom there are eight operating in the district.

#### *Registered Dairymen :—*

Mr. A. B. Gray, Plessey North Moor Farm, Stannington.  
Mr. E. Watson, The Tilery, Hazelrigg.  
Mr. W. H. Stephenson, Eland Green, Ponteland.

#### *Registered Distributors :—*

Cramlington Co-operative Society.  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Co-operative Society.  
Throckley and District Co-operative Society.  
Mr. E. D. Coltman, 60, Denton Gardens, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.  
Messrs. J. T. & R. Graham, Wylam Hill, Wylam-on-Tyne.

Twenty-one samples of milk were submitted for examination during the year, of which two were for the presence of Anthrax and nineteen for the Methylene Blue Test, the results being as follows :—



10 samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

1 sample decolourised the Methylene Blue in 3½ hours.

1 sample	decomposed and analyzed in 10 min.
4 samples	" " " 3 hours.

The remaining four samples were inconclusive, as the result of disease which developed among the guinea-pigs in the Public Health Laboratory.

The disease prevented the Laboratory from accepting any further samples for a period of six months, and was responsible for the number of samples examined during the year being lower than usual.

Of the eighteen samples submitted for the presence of Tuberculosis :—

12 proved negative.

2 proved inconclusive (animals died before completion of test).

4 were not completed owing to the disease in the Laboratory as already mentioned.

### Food Preparing Premises.

On 17th July, 1950, Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the specific purpose of achieving "sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air," became operative throughout the district. Frequent inspections are made of all food premises, and a co-operative attitude is being developed between the food handlers and the department.

Three film shows and lectures on food hygiene were organised during the year, all food trade's personnel and management being invited to attend, with reasonable success.

A further three premises were registered during the year for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

### Meat and other Foods.

Eleven Slaughter Houses were licensed for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs only. (Ministry of Food Circular FEO 1745 M900, 3rd April, 1948).

The entire meat supply of the district is transported from the Government abattoirs in Newcastle and Morpeth to two points of distribution within the district.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

	UN SOUND FOOD.		Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
1	Beef (home killed) ...	...	22½ sts.	—	—
2	Beef (imported) ...	...	22 sts.	—	—
3	Canned Goods ...	...	174 lbs.	—	—
4	Bacon ...	...	65 lbs.	—	—
5	Butter ...	...	23 lbs.	—	—
6	Semolina ...	...	24 lbs.	—	—
7	Apricots ...	...	11 lbs.	—	—
8	Cake mixture ...	...	14 lbs.	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT. YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of defects or Contra- ventions of Bye-laws	No. of informal notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	No. of statutory notices served
<b>HOUSING—</b>					
Structural defects ...	973	1093	105	543	33
Defective Food Store ...		41	41	41	
Dampness ...		73	73	63	Demolition Orders
Overcrowding ...		—	—	—	
<b>WATER SUPPLY—</b>					
Insufficient ...	7	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory ...		2	2	2	—
<b>DRAINAGE—</b>					
Insufficient ...	95	11	11	11	—
Defective ...		10	10	10	—
<b>SAN. CONVENIENCE—</b>					
Insufficient ...	341	—	—	—	—
In Defective ...		132	31	132	—
Food Premises ...	135	7	—	7	—
Shops Act ...	21	2	—	2	—
Dairies ...	105	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	36	1	—	—	—
(All animals, with the exception of some cottagers' pigs, are slaughtered in Govt. Abattoirs, Newcastle and Morpeth).					
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	74	5	5	5	—
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ...	132	12	—	12	—
Keepings of Animals ...	8	2	—	2	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	203	94	37	94	—
Offensive accumulations ...	6	2	2	2	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	7	1	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>2143</b>	<b>1488</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>33</b>

## HOUSING.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING YEAR	WITH STATE ASSISTANCE	UNAIDED	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority, Permanent	64	—	64
Temporary	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies			
Permanent	—	20	20
Temporary	—	—	—

**Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ... .. 97

**Action under Statutory Powers :**

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring repairs ... Nil

(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... .. Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners — Nil

(B) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. Nil

(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... .. Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(C) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. 33

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. 4

(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3) ... .. Nil

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. Nil

Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above. Undertakings to use for purposes other than dwellings accepted after formal action ... ..	3
Houses, on which Demolition Orders exist now vacant and awaiting demolition ... ..	50

**HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Sec. 20).**

(a) Number of separate Dwelling Houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received ... ..	15
(b) Number of separate Dwelling Houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved ... ..	2

ERIC WM. STRACHAN,  
Senior Sanitary Inspector.









